

## A ROUND-LEAVED RED RASPBERRY

BY WILLIAM H. BLANCHARD

Our red raspberry (*Rubus strigosus* Michx.) is somewhat variable, though probably much less so than the rather closely related *R. Idaeus* L. of the Old World. A careful study of the variations of our species would be very interesting and is in fact much needed. Until quite recently no variation had been noticed which seemed to merit separation as a species or a variety, though it is possible that some had been found to which names as forms might have been given with advantage, thus stimulating more careful observation and record.

But, on June 9, 1900, Mr. W. W. Eggleston, then living in Rutland, Vermont, found a remarkable plant in Cavendish, Vt., on the Black River near the Ludlow line. It was described by Mr. M. L. Fernald, of the Gray Herbarium, to which it was sent, in *Rhodora* 2: 195-200, and to his very interesting discussion attention is now called as well as to the full-page illustration drawn by Mr. C. E. Faxon, which prefaces the article.

In this article Mr. Fernald makes *R. strigosus* a variety of *R. Idaeus*, and our American red raspberry by his disposition becomes *R. Idaeus* L. var. *strigosus* (Michx.) Fernald. It is not very probable that many American botanists will accept this rearrangement, though it must be admitted that some of the herbarium material from northern Europe and Siberia appears to be much like some that is found in America. He calls Mr. Eggleston's plant *R. Idaeus* var. *anomalus* Arrhenius (*R. Leesii* Babbington), an interesting round-leaved dwarf form of Europe which it resembles in some respects, especially in the shape of its leaves. But they are manifestly not the same, being quite as different as *R. Idaeus* and *R. strigosus*, and there is as much occasion for giving them distinguishing names. The European dwarf has the distinguishing characters of *R. Idaeus* while the Cavendish plant has those of *R. strigosus*. Mr. Eggleston's plant is very slender and delicate; the bark on old canes is of reddish straw-color and has a few short, rather strong prickles; the small and slender

bristles and hairs on the peduncles, pedicels, and calyx are tipped with glands. *R. Idaeus* var. *anomalus*, judging from the specimen in hand, is a stocky plant with gray bark covered with very numerous, long, straight bristles, while the petioles, peduncles, pedicels, and calyx are similarly covered with glandless bristles. It is interesting here to note that in the opinion of Mr. Fernald this absence of glands in *R. Idaeus* is the character which best distinguishes *R. Idaeus* from *R. strigosus*.

Mr. Eggleston's plant according to Mr. Fernald's general view should be treated as an intergrading variety between *R. Idaeus* var. *anomalus* and *R. Idaeus* var. *strigosus*. This would make from the four forms of red raspberries now known one species and three varieties. The writer prefers to regard *R. strigosus* as a distinct species. Mr. Eggleston's plant may be properly treated either as a variety of *R. strigosus* or as a distinct species. The prevailing custom among American botanists is to make so distinct a plant a species and it is here so treated. The European dwarf has been so considered. This gives us four species; *R. Idaeus* L., *R. Leesii* Babbington, *R. strigosus* Michx. and

#### **Rubus Egglestonii** sp. nov.

Allied to *R. strigosus* Michx., the bark, prickles, flowers, and fruit being very similar; plants glandular, dwarfish, about one foot high; leaves small, rounded, coarsely crenate-dentate, one to one and one-half inches broad, trifoliolate with rounded, sessile leaflets on new canes and varying from unlobed to deeply lobed on old canes; inflorescence very scant, consisting of two- to four-flowered slender racemes.

Type collected by Mr. W. W. Eggleston in Cavendish, Vermont, June 9, 1900.

It is possible that this is a mere sport but not at all probable, and botanists may well be watching for it in other places, especially far to the north where it may reasonably be expected to be not rare.